

The Leadstacker

Number 4

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A Dream Come True

FOR ALMOST a year now, Robyn and I have had the good fortune to work in our dream shop. Every person who works with their hands should have a place like ours to work in. One hundred yards from the house sits the building that houses Sentinel Press and Studio. The building is divided into three large rooms: woodworking-mechanical, print shop, and glass shop. Of the many cards and letters I received when I began *The Leadstacker*, most people wanted to know about my shop and equipment so I'll describe the print shop in this issue.

The print shop occupies an area of 26 x 30 feet. As you walk in the front door, to the left stand my workhorses. First, an old style (1890) Chandler and Price 10 x 15, powered, platen press and next to her is a likewise powered, old style 8 x 12 C & P. Next in the line is my Pearl, 7 x 11 and treadle powered. This press was found slightly covered with a piece of plastic, sitting under an oak tree. Last is a Challenge proof press with a bed size of 15 x 20. This one takes up a lot of room but sure comes in handy occasionally.

Turning the corner and down the left wall is the paper stock, cutter (26½ inch, lever) and binding-wrapping table. Across the back wall are a desk, book shelves and an offset press that's *still* not running. Also in this wall is an eight foot wide door



which is great for bringing in equipment.

Along the last wall are my "babies," my collection of table top presses which are all in operating condition. A 6 x 9 Columbian Number 2 by C & M Manufacturing, a 6 x 9 Sigwalt, an Improved Number 1, 5 x 7½ Model, and a Kelsey 5 x 8 comprise my collection at this time.

In the center of the room is the "nerve center" of Sentinel Press, a large steel imposing table with lots of galley racks below, surrounded on three sides by type cases. There are over three hundred cases here and about two hundred fonts of type. Approximately five fonts per month are added to the collection.

Sentinel Press is not the typical basement or bedroom print shop but I'm not belittling these shops, on the contrary, I have a great deal of respect for many of these people. With less equipment, they produce both higher quality and quantity than I. To those who wish they had a larger work area, I hope that some day you can fulfill your dream as I have, and to those who are content with one press and few drawers of type, but are prolific, keep it up; you sure make some of us look like gigantic snails.

I am looking for a small collection of antique type to purchase. I can promise a good home. I would also like to own a small Washington press. Does anyone know of one for sale within an eight hundred mile radius of Little Rock?

The Leadstacker is printed at Sentinel Press & Studio,



7801 Westwood Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204, which is open to visitors almost any time; by John Korn who used handset type and a 1890

Chandler & Price press.